



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

Friday, January 11, 2008

"The unexamined life is not worth living."

Socrates, in Plato's Apology, c. 399 B.C.

On Thursday, January 3, 2008, the staff of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility (PREF) toured Wheeler Mission, the Indianapolis Community Re-Entry Center, and Volunteers of America to become familiar with the environments to which male offenders return.

Several offenders at the Rockville Correctional Facility crocheted 228 stuffed bears. The bears were dressed in crocheted army vests and hats of desert camouflage for presentation to the families of the local National Guard Armory. Many members of the unit will soon be deployed with the 3rd battalion.

Rockville Correctional Facility celebrated its fourth CLIFF graduation on January 4, 2008 with 34 graduates. The guest speaker was Terry L. Jenkins and Director of the Adult and Juvenile programs for the Indiana Department of Correction.

The Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility (PREF) received a score in the green (90% range) on their monthly Progress Reports (PR's) and Re-Entry Accountability Plans (RAP's). These scores represent the hard work and dedication that the PREF Re-Entry Specialists have shown in their efforts to increase public safety and reduce recidivism.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Superintendent Stanley Knight reports that the Facility's "Shifting Gears" bicycle refurbishing operation restored 944 bicycles in 2007. Bicycles restored by offenders assigned to the program are donated to a variety of charitable organizations in the community. Superintendent Knight also reports that the facility's "Wheels for the World" wheelchair refurbishing operation recently completed 200 wheelchairs that have been designated for shipment to Russia. A special baby stroller was also recently completed by offenders assigned to the program to meet the body specifications of a disabled baby in the Republic of Haiti.

Miami Correctional Facility assisted the Miami County Emergency Management Agency Tuesday with filling sandbags to use to reduce flooding in Miami County. Twenty-one offenders used sand from two dump trucks to fill nearly 1,500 bags in about 90 minutes. The sandbags were used to help flood victims in Mexico, IN.

Branchville Correctional Facility's Maintenance Department along with an offender work crew manufactured 200 cutting boards for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources the Department of Agriculture. The cutting boards highlight and promote the different species of Indiana hard woods.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center teamed up with the Indiana Blood Center to host a blood drive on January 8, 2008. Twenty-four staff members took the time to donate blood to help save lives. In addition, RDC began the implementation of TABE testing for all adult male offenders on January 9, 2008.